

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Final Office Action mailed on July 21, 2006 as well as the art cited. Claims, 1, 10, 22 and 28 have been amended. Claims 1-31 are pending in this application.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview on September 12, 2006. The Applicant and Examiner discussed the use of a relatively straight blade (such as blade 502 in Figure 5) in combination with a second tongue displacement plate (such as 412 shown in figures 4 and 5) that extended away from the relatively straight blade. As discussed, typical straight blades do not have a second tongue displacement plate that extends away from the blade. If they use a second tongue displacement plate, it extends under the straight blade. As further discussed, curved blades such as that shown in the Cartledge et al. reference may include a second tongue displacement plate that extends away from the curved blade. However, there is no motivation provided in the art to use a second tongue displacement plate that extends away from the blade when the blade is relatively straight. Accordingly, the Applicant has amended select claims so that all the independent claims include a relatively straight blade in combination with a second tongue displacement plate that extends away from the blade as was discussed during the interview.

Corrected Specification

Applicant has made corrections to the specification to correct typographical errors and the miss-numbering of elements. The drawings have been corrected accordingly. No new matter has been entered by way of the amendments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cartledge et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,623,425) in view of Sakamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,095,972).

Serial No.: 10/777,293

Filing Date: 2/12/2004

Attorney Docket No. 700.002US01

Title: LARYNGOSCOPE BLADE

Please refer to the statements made in the Examiner Interview section. Each independent claim includes the language relating to a relatively straight blade in combination with a second tongue that extends away from the blade. The prior art does not teach this feature. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-31 under section 103.

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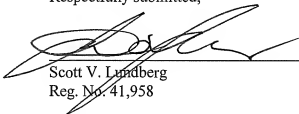
Title: LARYNGOSCOPE BLADE

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims **1-31** are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 502432.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 455-1690.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9-15-06

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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APPENDIX – AMENDED DRAWINGS FOLLOW